

REMARKS

This application was filed with 66 claims. Claims 1-19 have been rejected. Claims 20-66 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1-19 have been canceled. New Claims 67-90 have been added. Therefore, Claims 67-90 are pending in the Application. Reconsideration of the application based on the new claims and the arguments submitted below is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,103,267 to Olschewski, U.S. Patent No. 4,975,671 to Dirks, U.S. Patent No. 5,430,613 to Hastings et al, and U.S. Patent No. 4,536,733 to Shelly. The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections because the references cited by the Examiner do not teach various limitations required by each of these claims. Nevertheless, in order to advance the prosecution of this case, the Applicant has canceled Claims 1-19. Accordingly, the rejections of Claims 1-19 should be withdrawn.

New Claims 67-90

The Applicant submits that new Claims 67-90 are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner because these claims include limitations that are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Claim 67 is directed to a method of producing an electrical component that includes the steps of providing a container having an exterior surface, an inner space, and an open base, providing a plurality of electrically conductive half-turns,

and connecting the plurality of electrically conductive half-turns to the exterior surface of the container. None of the references cited by Examiner teach such a method.

The Olschewski reference

The Olschewski reference teaches a method of producing a transformer that includes the steps of providing a substrate that includes a plurality of metal conductors, covering the metal conductors with a dielectric layer so that inner and outer ends of the conductors are exposed, mounting a ferrite core coated with an insulating material to the dielectric material using an adhesive, folding a plurality of wire conductors over the insulated ferrite core, and connecting the ends of the wire conductors to the exposed inner and outer ends of the metal conductors. See, Olschewski, Figs. 1-4, col. 2, ll. 18-68 – col. 3, ll. 1-24.

Olschewski does not teach or suggest the step of providing a container having an exterior surface, an inner space, and an open base. The only structure that might be considered to be the container required by this claim is the insulated ferrite core. That structure, however, does not include an open base or an inner space as required by this claim.

In addition, Olschewski does not teach or suggest the step of connecting the plurality of electrically conductive half-turns to the exterior surface of such a container. The wire conductors taught by Olschewski, which are the only structures that might be considered to be the electrically conductive half-turns required by this claim, are not connected to the exterior surface of a container as required by this

claim. As shown by Figs. 1 and 2 of Olschewski, the wire conductors are only connected to the exposed inner and outer ends of the metal conductors in the substrate. They are not connected to a container of any kind, let alone the container required by this claim.

As a result, the Applicant submits that Claim 67 is patentable over Olschewski.

The Dirks reference

The Dirks reference is directed to a method of manufacturing a transformer that includes the steps of providing a spacer having a plurality of flat spacer conductors integrated into the spacer so that portions of the spacer conductors extend from the spacer to form spacer leads, placing a ferrite core on the spacer, providing a u-shaped bridge having a plurality of u-shaped bridge conductors integrated into the bridge so that portions of the bridge conductors extend from the bridge and form bridge leads, placing the bridge over the ferrite core, and connecting the bridge leads to the spacer leads. See, Dirks, Figs. 1-4, 7, and 8, col. 4, ll. 5-68 – col. 5, ll. 1-66.

Dirks does not teach or suggest the step of connecting a plurality of electrically conductive half-turns to an exterior surface of a container including an open base and an inner space. While Dirks does teach the use of bridge conductors that might be considered to be the electrically conductive half-turns required by this claim, the bridge conductors are not connected to the exterior surface of a container as required by this claim. All of the figures in Dirks clearly show the bridge conductors integrated into the molded bridge taught by Dirks. They are not

connected to the exterior surface of the molded bridge, which is the only structure that might be considered to be the container required by Claim 67.

Thus, the Applicant submits that Claim 67 is patentable over Dirks.

The Hastings reference

Hastings teaches a method of making a current transformer that includes the steps of providing a substrate including a plurality of conductive tracks, covering the conductive tracks with a dielectric material so that inner and outer ends of the tracks are exposed, depositing a plurality of layers of magnetic material on the dielectric material to form a magnetic core, coating the core with an insulating material, providing a lead frame that includes a plurality of u-shaped metal conductors, placing the plurality of metal conductors over the core, connecting the plurality of metal conductors to the conductive tracks, and severing the lead frame from the plurality of metal conductors. See, Hastings, Figs. 1-5, col. 4, ll. 44-68 – col. 6, ll. 1-37.

The Hastings reference does not teach or suggest the step of providing a container having an exterior surface, an inner space, and an open base. As was the case with Olschewski, the only structure that might be considered to be the container required by this claim is the insulated magnetic core. That structure, however, does not include an open base or an inner space as required by this claim.

Hastings also does not teach or suggest the step of connecting a plurality of electrically conductive half-turns to an exterior surface of a container having an exterior surface, an inner space, and an open base. The metal conductors taught by

Hastings are not connected to the exterior surface of a container as required by this claim. As shown by Fig. 2 of Hastings, the metal conductors are connected to the insulated magnetic core. The insulated magnetic core, however, is not the container required by this claim because it does not include an open base or an inner space.

Consequently, the Applicant submits that Claim 67 is patentable over this reference.

The Shelly reference

Shelly teaches a method of producing a transformer that includes the steps of providing a printed circuit board, placing a ferrite core wrapped with an insulated primary winding wire on the printed circuit board, providing a plurality of c-shaped coupling clips, placing the c-shaped coupling clips over the insulated ferrite core, and connecting the coupling clips to the printed circuit board. See, Shelly, Figs. 1-5, col. 3, ll. 38-68 – col. 4, ll. 1-68.

Shelly does not teach or suggest the step of providing a container having an exterior surface, an inner space, and an open base, or the step of connecting a plurality of electrically conductive half-turns to the exterior surface of that container. The only structure that might be considered to be the container required by this claim is the insulated magnetic core. That structure, however, does not include an open base or an inner space as required by this claim. In addition, the c-shaped clips taught by Shelly are not connected to the exterior surface of a container as required by this claim. As shown by Fig. 4 of Shelly, the c-shaped

coupling clips are only connected to the printed circuit board. They are not connected to a container as required by this claim.

Therefore, the Applicant submits that Claim 67 is patentable over Shelly.

Claims 68-80 are dependent claims that depend on Claim 67 and include all of its limitations. Accordingly, these claims are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner for the same reasons as Claim 67.

The Applicant also submits that Claims 68-80 are patentable over the cited references because they include additional limitations, as set forth in the language used in these claims, that are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Claim 81 is directed to a method of producing an electrical component that includes the steps of providing a container including an exterior surface having a plurality of grooves and connecting a plurality of electrically conductive half-turns to the exterior surface of the container by inserting the half-turns into the grooves. None of the references cited by the Examiner teach a method that includes these steps. Thus, Claim 81 is patentable over the cited references for this reason.

Claims 82-84 are dependent claims that depend on Claim 81 and include all of its limitations. As a result, these claims are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner for the same reasons as Claim 81. The Applicant also notes that these claims include additional limitations that are not taught or suggested by the cited references and are patentable for this reason as well.

Claim 85 is directed to a method of producing an electrical component that includes the steps of providing a container including an exterior surface having a

plurality of retention seats and recesses, providing a plurality of electrically conductive half-turns including a plurality of resilient retention tabs, and connecting the plurality of electrically conductive half-turns to the exterior surface of the container by inserting the half-turns into the retention seats and inserting the retention tabs in the retention recesses. None of the references cited by the Examiner teach a method that includes these steps. Therefore, the Applicant submits that Claim 85 is patentable over the references cited by the Examiner.

Claims 86-90 are dependent claims that depend on Claim 85 and include all of its limitations. Consequently, these claims are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner for the same reasons as Claim 85. These claims also include additional limitations that are not taught or suggested by the cited references and are patentable for this reason as well.

Applicant has commented on some of the distinctions between the cited references and the claims to facilitate a better understanding of the present invention. This discussion is not exhaustive of the facets of the invention, and Applicant hereby reserves the right to present additional distinctions as appropriate. Furthermore, while these remarks may employ shortened, more specific, or variant descriptions of some of the claim language, Applicant respectfully notes that these remarks are not to be used to create implied limitations in the claims and only the actual wording of the claims should be considered against these references.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicant petitions the Commissioner to extend the time for responding to August 15, 2003 Office Action for 1 months from

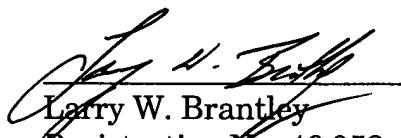
November 15, 2003 to December 15, 2003. Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge the required extension fee to Deposit Account 23-0035.

The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this Response to Deposit Account 23-0035.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that this response places this application in condition for allowance and that action is specifically requested.

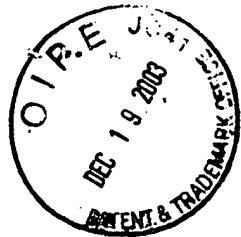
Respectfully submitted,



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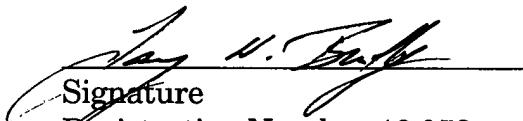
CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING

I hereby certify that this Response and Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on December 15, 2003.

Larry W. Brantley


Signature
Registration Number 46,052

December 15, 2003
Date